

## Shah of Iran due in Aswan Monday

TEHRAN, Jan. 6 (AFP). — The Shah of Iran will leave for Cairo within the next few days for talks with President Anwar Sadat and possibly King Hassan II of Morocco aimed at resolving the issue of Palestinian representation blocking on-going Middle East peace negotiations, informed sources said here today. Earlier today, the Middle East news agency in Cairo reported that the Shah would arrive in Aswan on Monday for a one-day visit. They added that the mini-summit planned either in Cairo or in Aswan would be the moderates' answer to the recent "rejection summit" of anti-Sadat states in Tripoli. There are persistent rumours that His Majesty King Hussein may join in the summit.

# JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جورن تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

## Rabat slams Boumedienne's tour

RIYADH, Jan. 6 (AFP). — Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Emir Saud Al Faysal today issued a public statement on his talks here yesterday with Algerian President Houari Boumedienne, terming them characterised by "total frankness". However in Rabat the Moroccan News Agency said today that the Algerian president is "preaching disunity in Arab ranks and widening the gap that everyone should be trying to close." Tonight President Boumedienne began talks in Abu Dhabi with President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan, after arriving from Bahrain on the fourth stage of an Arab tour. An official source said the meeting covered developments in the Arab world and ways of reinforcing Pan-Arab solidarity.

Volume 3, Number 646

AMMAN, SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1978 — MUHARRAM 28, 1398

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

## Prince Fahd endorses Sadat's peace moves

BEIRUT, Jan. 6 (AFP). — Saudi Arabia, which has been reserved over President Anwar Sadat's peace initiative, broke its recent silence on the subject when Crown Prince Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz came out with unconditional support for the Egyptian president's moves during an interview with an American television network last night.

Prince Fahd also told ABC carried by the Qatar news agency today that no one can ignore the role of the Soviet Union in the Middle East, adding that Saudi Arabia was prepared to recognise Israel if a peace agreement were reached between Israel and the Arab states.

The agency also quoted him as saying during the interview that the 1,800,000 Palestinians living in other Arab countries must be allowed to return home and exercise the right of self-determination. He also endorsed the PLO as the legitimate spokesman for the Palestinians.

The Emir said that "the Palestinian people have chosen the PLO to take responsibility for the Palestinians." "This," he continued, "has been approved by the Arab states and His Majesty King Hussein was the promoter of

the resolution of the Arab summit at Rabat." "That is why," he said in answer to a question, "I do not see what problem there can be between King Hussein and Mr. Arafat (PLO leader Yasser Arafat) on the question of the representation of the Palestinians."

He rejected U.S. President Jimmy Carter's view that the PLO has removed itself from any immediate prospect of taking part in peace talks. It was up to the people concerned to choose their representatives, the Emir said.

The Emir said that the ideal solution of the Middle East crisis was for Israel to withdraw from all territories occupied in 1967, for the Palestinians to return home and there exercise their right to self-determination and decide their future by themselves.

He called on Israel to give an "appropriate" response to President Anwar Sadat's Jerusalem visit, and he called on the United States to try to understand Mr. Sadat's viewpoint.

He added that Saudi Arabia might recognise Israel if there were peace in the Middle East. "If the Arab states recognise Israel," he said, "Saudi Arabia is obviously one of the Arab states."

## Carter ends tour optimistic of peace

BRUSSELS, Jan. 6 (Agencies). — President Carter today told Belgian Premier Leo Tindemans that he is opposed to a bilateral Egyptian-Israeli solution of the Middle East problem, Mr. Tindemans said.

Mr. Tindemans, speaking to journalists after talks with Mr. Carter at the royal palace here, said the U.S. president expressed guarded optimism that a multilateral solution to the area's problems could be found.

Mr. Carter also reiterated his support for a homeland for the Palestinians, though not an independent Palestinian state, the Belgian Premier said.

President Carter arrived here from Paris at the end of his tour of three continents. He drove straight from the airport to lunch as the guest of King Baudouin.

The president said he had talked about two simple constant themes during his seven-day tour: "the demand for political liberties, for basic human rights."

The other universal theme was the need "to resolve conflicts without violence, to make peace instead of war."

After the lunch President Carter was driven to the headquarters of the European Economic Commission (EEC), where he was welcomed by Commission President Roy Jenkins, before talks on monetary problems, relations between the U.S. on one side and the EEC and Japan on the other, energy problems, the North-South dialogue, and bilateral relations.

The president told the EEC commissioners that the United States welcomed a strong, united Europe and would do its part in working with the community.

He drew an optimistic picture of the United States economy, saying it was prosperous and continuing its steady recovery from the recession which started four years ago.

After meeting the Common Market commissioners, the president addressed the permanent representatives to NATO and gave his third commitment in as many days of total American support for the Western alliance.

"The United States will continue to maintain, undiminished, its firm commitment to NATO," he said.

But he continued: "Our commitment is not to war -- it is to peace."

President Carter's 43-hour visit to France, which ended earlier today, was judged a success by diplomatic observers, even though a certain ambiguity could be discerned in matters of international finance and

European security.

The U.S. leader was warmly welcomed by the French and President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing was plainly delighted with the outcome of his visit.

There was recognition by the American administration that France's independent policy, as Mr. Giscard d'Estaing put it, was on the whole, a "positive factor" observers said.

At the same time there was an obvious convergence of thinking on many international problems, including European construction and the creation of a "confederation" and on the Middle East and the Israeli-Arab conflict.

France particularly brought up the problem of guarantees for peace in the Middle East, to which it intended to contribute when the time came.

Finally there was sudden support expressed here by Mr. Carter for the American currency, immediately translated into a rise in the value of the dollar and a firming up of the franc.

Mr. Carter began his last morning in Paris by meeting leaders of France's opposition socialist and left-wing radical parties and, according to White House officials, warned them against any alliance with the Communists.

Mr. Carter went out of his way to praise M. Mitterrand during their half-hour meeting, paying tribute to his "good and beneficial role" in France. "We have many things in common," he added.

## Dollar fluctuates slightly but reported substantially firm

LONDON, Jan. 6 (R). — On cautious and sceptical European foreign exchange markets today, the dollar fluctuated slightly but remained fairly firm after Washington's announcement this week of a big programme to prop up the U.S. currency.

Following yesterday's sharp rise, which came immediately in the wake of the Washington announcement, the dollar opened generally weaker on the European markets this morning.

But it steadied later against some currencies, including sterling.

The general feeling reported by dealers was still one of uncertainty.

The market operators are



Unidentified top Palestine Liberation Organisation officials arrive at London's Heathrow Airport from Beirut Thursday night to escort the body of Said Hammami, who was murdered in London Wednesday night. (AP wirephoto)

## Heath in Jordan; voices strong support for Sadat

AMMAN, Jan. 6. — Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath said here tonight that President Anwar Sadat's "great" and "courageous" initiative had made it "perfectly possible" to reach a Middle East peace settlement. He doubted whether a reconvened Geneva conference could ever have succeeded fully.

Mr. Heath, who is visiting Jordan on the personal invitation of His Majesty King Hussein, arrived yesterday from Egypt where he had private talks with President Sadat.

Mr. Heath said the president showed "no sign of being under strain." "I found him very confident... very determined to pursue the initiative," he continued.

In an interview exclusive to the Jordan Times, Mr. Heath said he does not believe President Sadat intends to make a bilateral settlement with Israel.

Although there had of course been disappointment over the Ismailia meeting, the two committees of the Cairo conference must now be given time to settle details.

President Carter has been working to bring the two sides together, Mr. Heath believes, but the United States "will not take responsibilities that belong to Israel."

"If this initiative fails, the outlook is very bad," Mr. Heath said. "But there has certainly not been a better chance for peace."

In his interview Mr. Heath also dealt with Europe's interests in the Middle East. A full account will be given in tomorrow's Jordan Times.

## Lebanon says "No" to peace if Palestinians are not resettled

BEIRUT, Jan. 6 (Agencies). — President Elias Sarkis said today that Lebanon would not accept any Middle East peace deal which meant that the thousands of Palestine refugees now in the country would live here forever.

"Lebanon will not accept any form of settlement which could provide for the retention of the Palestinians on its territory," President Sarkis said in an annual address to the diplomatic corps.

Estimates place the number of Palestinians in Lebanon at about 400,000. Conflict between

them and rightwing Lebanese Maronite Christian parties was one cause of the 1975-1976 civil war.

In view of this, Israeli statements that the Jewish state would not permit a full-scale return of the refugees, under any negotiated Middle East settlement, have aroused concern in Beirut.

Premier Selim Al Hoss said last night that he rejects "any proposal which is aimed at imposing the settlement of the Palestinians outside their own lands."

Such a proposal "negates the hopes and ambitions of the Palestinian people... (and) represents a solution at the expense of (our) Palestinian brethren in several Arab countries, including Lebanon," Dr. Al Hoss said.

Today President Sarkis said that any solution which failed to resettle the Palestinians would harm Lebanon's essential interests and would be beyond the "possibilities" of this country of three million people.

"It inflicts more damage on the Palestinian cause itself," the president said.

The civil war in Lebanon cost some 60,000 lives before a mainly-Syrian Arab League truce-keeping army silenced the guns in November, 1976.

A Lebanese leftist leader said yesterday that war or peace in the Middle East was a Palestinian decision.

"Peace begins in Palestine and so does war," Mr. Ibrahim Ouleilat, leader of the Independent Nationalist movement (AI Murabitoun), told a news conference here.

Mr. Ouleilat said a "fierce onslaught" was being waged against the "Palestine cause" and the Lebanese nationalist (leftist) movement.

## Police seek "Adel" for Hammami murder

LONDON, Jan. 6 (R). — British police hunting the killer of Palestinian envoy Said Hammami are looking for a young man named Adel who may be a Syrian, sources close to the investigation said today.

The sources said that police had traced several Arabs living in London whom the killer had met before his fatal appointment Wednesday afternoon with Mr. Hammami, London representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

These Arabs have told police that Adel was a Syrian, the sources said. It was not clear whether he had told them this himself or whether they were making an assumption based upon his accent.



London Metropolitan police headquarters at Scotland Yard issued this photo of Thursday night of the man they are seeking in connection with the murder Wednesday night of Said Hammami, the London representative of Palestine Liberation Organisation. (AP wirephoto)

A Syrian embassy spokesman told Reuters that police had not told the embassy this and that it was shameful that suspicion should be directed at his country, two of whose embassy staff were killed by a car booby trap on New Year's eve.

Police know Adel's full name, but it is not clear whether that is his real name or an assumed one.

Intensive checks were imposed on outgoing passengers at all ports and airports within an hour of Mr. Hammami's killing and the sources said that no one using Adel's name had left the country since then. But he may have slipped out on a false passport.

The inquest on Mr. Hammami opened here today and was attended by his widow Khalida and PLO representatives. It was told that he was killed by a bullet in the head. The inquest was formally adjourned until March 1.

## Begin approves new Jewish settlements in northern Sinai

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6 (R). — Prime Minister Menachem Begin today approved the creation of new Jewish settlements in the Sinai desert and made known that he was thinking of retiring to the area himself. A government announcement gave official blessing to preparation of land for farming in the Rafah salient district where bulldozers have been clearing land this week for eight new Jewish settlements.

The area is part of northeast Sinai which, under Mr. Begin's peace plan, would eventually be handed back to Egyptian sovereignty. President Anwar Sadat said on American television that he will not let Jewish settlements stay on Egyptian land.

A government announcement said the ground clearance was designed to strengthen settlement in the Rafah region and went on: "The Israeli peace plan stipulates that the Israeli settlements between Eilat and Sharm Al Sheikh in the south and the Rafah salient in the north will remain where they are. It is in accordance with this that the present operation is being carried out."

A spokesman for Mr. Begin said the 64-year-old prime minister had applied last month for membership in the Neot-Sinai agricultural settlement near Al Arish and hoped to live there after retirement. He has now been notified that he has been accepted.

The settlement manager, Yitzhak Regev, told reporters that Mr. Begin would be allocated a small bungalow "with a magnificent view of the Mediterranean."

The Jewish settler movement, whose members are among Mr. Begin's most loyal supporters, have displayed great agitation over his proposals which provide for self-rule to be granted to Arabs on the West Bank and in Gaza and for the Sinai desert to be handed back to Egypt.

The settlers feared the moves would result in the eventual uprooting of the outposts that have built up in occupied Arab territory.

In a further move to mollify these fears, Finance Minister Simcha Ebrilich said the government was in favour of setting up more settlements in Sinai.

"Anyone who studies our peace proposals must realise that we want more of the (Sinai) area to be ruled by the United Nations with settlers subject to Israeli law and defended by our soldiers," Mr. Ebrilich told reporters.

Mr. Ebrilich said the Israeli proposals had U.S. backing and that he did not expect President Sadat to reject them completely although tough bargaining could be expected.

The United States yesterday asked Israel to clarify reports that it was expanding settlement in the occupied Arab territories.

State Department spokesman Tom Reston said the U.S. views such settlements as violating international law.

The fears of the settlers were

expressed by Mr. Regev at Neot-Sinai.

"We certainly do not want to be under Egyptian or any other foreign rule and will never agree to abandon a spot we regard as essential to Israel's national security," Mr. Regev said. "This is why we came here in the first place."

But Mr. Regev said he and his fellow settlers had full confidence in Mr. Begin.

"We know him well and we are certain that any proposal he makes will provide for our security and well-being."

When he presented his peace plan before the Knesset last week, Mr. Begin said he wanted the Jewish settlements in Sinai to remain under Israeli jurisdiction and protection even after Egypt regained sovereignty.

An American television report from Egypt last night said Mr. Sadat intended to propose dismantling all Israeli settlements in Sinai within three years.

## Settlements meant to placate opposition in Israel, official says

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 (R). — An Israeli official said here today that expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied Sinai region would not pose an obstacle to peace.

The official, who asked not to be named, indicated to reporters at a breakfast briefing that the decision to bulldoze sites for eight new outposts was taken to head off attacks by the Israeli opposition.

He said many in the opposition had been critical of Prime Minister Menachem Begin for being much too forthcoming and taking grave risks in the settlement issue in peace proposals offered in response to President Sadat's initiatives.

The opposition Labour Party attacked the proposals as practically abandoning settlements, he said.

The official also said remarks by Mr. Sadat that the settlements would not be allowed to remain in the Sinai created a lot of concern among settlers.

"We felt the need to take care of them," he said, adding that he believed none of the expansion would extend farther west into the Sinai than the present settlements.

The official said the expansion should not provide an obstacle to peace or block ministerial level talks due to open on Jan. 16 because the settlements themselves "are a subject of negotiations."

Israel hoped the talks would lead to open borders and arrangements under which the settlers would be allowed to remain in the Sinai, even though it would be returned to full Egyptian sovereignty, he said.

The official was optimistic about the prospects for peace during further talks, speaking of an "irreversible trend."

"We should get a result at the end of the road," he said.

He said Mr. Begin and Mr. Sadat agreed on the language of a statement of principles of a comprehensive peace settlement during their talks in Ismailia on Christmas day. But advisers in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry strongly urged Mr. Sadat to back down, he said.

The State Department, meanwhile, said the United States remained in contact with Israel about reports it was expanding its settlements in the Sinai.

But spokesman Tom Reston would not disclose what had been learned from talks yesterday, or say whether the United States understood Israel to be adding new settlements or expanding existing ones.

Israel Radio reports 20 outposts, 4 settlements

An unconfirmed Israel Radio report tonight said the government has decided to set up immediately 20 new military outposts and four civilian settlements in the Rafah salient.

The unconfirmed report said the military outposts would be set up along the sand dunes in the salient even before the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers meet later this month in Jerusalem to hammer out the details of a political settlement.

The report said the government also decided to boost up the existing dozen settlements in the region and expand their membership to 120 families each as first planned.

No immediate official comment was available on the radio report.

## 80% of Israelis support Begin

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6 (AFP). — Some 80 per cent of Israelis support Premier Menachem Begin's current policies, an opinion poll reported today.

The poll, conducted by the Hebrew University, said that if elections were held now, Mr. Begin's Likud Party would win a big enough majority to rule alone, without the backing of its present partners in the right-wing ruling coalition.

The poll also revealed that 85 per cent of Israelis feel that Egypt is sincere in its peace initiatives, and the same number believe that Syria is not seeking peace.

## Schmidt leaves

### Aswan

ASWAN, Jan. 6 (R). — West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt flew from Egypt to Romania today after extensive talks with President Anwar Sadat and a brief meeting here with President Carter on Wednesday.



## JORDAN TIMES

**Editor:** KAMEL G. KHOURI  
**Managing Editor:** JENAB TUTUNJI  
**Deputy Managing Editor:** RASSAM BISHUTI  
**Editorial Staff:** ALAN MARTIN  
**Board of Directors:** JUMA'AH HAMAD, RAJA ELISSA, MOHAMMAD AMAD, MAHMOUD AL KAYE  
**Responsible Editor:** MOHAMMAD AMAD

**Editorial and advertising offices:**  
 Jordan Press Foundation  
 University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan  
 Telephones: 67171-2-3-4  
 Tlx: 1497 Al Rai JO, Cables: JORTIMES, Amman Jordan

The Jordan Times is published daily except Mondays. Advertising and subscription rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising dept.

### Time to be dispassionate

It is important to try and keep a semblance of dispassionate observation when viewing the fast-paced events of the current Middle East peace efforts. There are two dangers associated inherently with the events of the past two months. First, one is often duped into mistaking purely symbolic or meaninglessly procedural matters for progress on the substance of peace, and, second, one is also often tempted to see progress where no practical progress at all is to be touched.

The two best examples we can offer of these two phenomena are the Begin proposals for self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, and the statement by President Carter of the United States, after his talks with President Sadat this week, that a Middle East peace must include the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and must enable the Palestinians to participate in the determination of their own future.

On the first account, the Begin proposals, as all the Arabs have stated, are unacceptable, and were turned down before nearly a decade ago. Yet the world sees the Begin proposals as a big step forward. They are not, and the dispassionate observer will keep the Begin suggestions in their proper perspective.

On the second account, it is unfair and incorrect to assume that the United States has made a large step forward of its own in stating that the Palestinians are central to peace. This is not a concession or a major breakthrough; it is more in the line of accepting facts of life, and it mirrors historical processes of nurturing political maturity that were experienced by the French in Indochina and Algeria, and by the Americans in Vietnam. It was a historical and a moral failure of the world to ignore the core Palestinian issue in the Middle East conflict during the past 30 years. So to recognise the centrality of the Palestinians today is not a sign of making concessions, but rather one of belated realism. Similarly, it is not concession of any sort to say the Palestinians have to participate in deciding their own future, any more than it is to say that the rays of the sun have to participate in the process of photosynthesis by which green leaves make the world go round. These are undeniable and inviolable realities.

It is important to keep things in their right perspective and the perspective of the dispassionate observer today is still lacking the real concessions of full territorial withdrawal and recognition of Palestinian national rights that have to be made by the people of Israel.

### ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RAI, on Friday, said Israeli Premier Menachem Begin is only continuing the old Zionist concept which former Premier David Ben Gurion expressed thus: "Israel's frontiers extend to where the feet of Israeli soldiers reach." Mr. Begin has admitted to 90 Jewish settlements and he is allowing more to be established on occupied Arab territories. Israel looks upon Arab lands as liberated parts of "Eretz Israel" and all peace moves have failed to change this Israeli attitude.

AL DUSTOUR said optimism in the coming of peace has again disappeared although Israel tries hard to pretend peace is coming. But indications are otherwise, and the new plans for further Jewish settlements in Sinai do not speak much for peace. The contradictions must serve as a warning not to be carried away with false hopes which can only be dangerous for the national psychology. A safer and practical way is to take the road of caution and await more tangible proof of peace.

#### THE AMERICAN WOMEN OF AMMAN

Will meet at 10:00 a.m. Monday, Jan. 9 in the Ballroom of the Intercontinental Hotel. The speaker will be Mrs. Inam Mufti.

#### TELEX... TELEX

We just received big quantity of the new Telex machines, electronic model 1978.

#### METELCO - AMMAN

Jabal Luweibdeh, near the park.

Phone: 37289.



Hellers! What can I do for you?  
 From "The Guardian"

### Municipal budgets, fuel allocations to rise, minister says

AL RABBAH, Karak Governorate, Jan. 6 (JNA). — Fuel and land transport allocations to municipalities will be doubled this year, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs, Ibrahim Ayoub said here yesterday.

The municipalities' financial revenues will also be doubled

as a result of legal amendments, improvement in methods of tax-collection and setting a new pricing system for water, Mr. Ayoub added. He said his ministry will ask the municipalities to prepare their respective budgets for 1978 on this basis.

### National News Roundup

#### Jordan sends delegation to Arab space communications meeting in Riyadh

AMMAN, Jan. 6 (JNA). — Director General of the Telecommunications Corporation Muhammad Shabed Ismail, left here for Riyadh yesterday at the head of Jordan's delegation to the fifth session of the Arab Space Communications Corporation to be held on Jan. 8. Mr. Ismail, who is also co-chairman of the Arab Space Corporation, said that the meeting will discuss financial administrative issues and the implementation of the Arab Satellite project, which will improve communications between Arab states once it starts functioning. The Arab Space Corporation was established in February, 1977 with a capital of \$100 million.

#### Labour unions asked to elect officers

AMMAN, Jan. 6 (JNA). — The Ministry of Labour has asked all labour unions to prepare their budgets and to elect their boards of directors in preparation for the election of the Executive Council of the Labour Unions Federation to be held in April.

#### Emir of Kuwait cables Talhouni

AMMAN, Jan. 6 (JNA). — Speaker of the Upper House Bahjat Talhouni today received a cable from the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, in response to the cable of condolences which he sent on the death of the late Emir Sheikh Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah.

#### Arab Potash Co. board meets

AMMAN, Jan. 6 (JNA). — The board of directors for the Arab Potash Company will hold a meeting tomorrow to continue discussion of the company's establishment contract and by-laws in the light of the changes in the company's capital. The capital, of which the government owns 51 per cent and the Arab Mining Company 25 per cent, has been raised to JD 40 million.

#### FOR SALE

1973 Plymouth Fury saloon automatic.

Air conditioning. Duty not paid.

Telephone 65574 after 3:30 p.m.

### La Terrasse Restaurant

(International Catering)

The management announces that the restaurant will be closed on Sundays, January 1978.

Guests are welcome on all other days of the week.

### Consumer prices up 33.9 % in one year, official bulletin shows

AMMAN, Jan. 6 (JT). — Consumer prices in Amman rose by 33.9 per cent between October 1976 and the same month this year, a bulletin published recently by the Department of Statistics shows.

Since 1967, prices have merely tripled, it emerges from the bulletin.

The major price increases are on food as a whole, which now has an index of 465 -- (taking 1967 as 100); and especially on fruit (index: 961). The price of housing has remained relatively stable and now stands at 163.

These are figures for Amman, but there are significant differences in price movements between the different towns of Jordan. Zarqa's rate of inflation has been faster recently than Amman's and its prices are now a little higher. Whereas Amman's consumer price index shows a drop of about 5% between September and October of last year, Zarqa's has gone up. This is mainly because of a 30% increase in rents and a 34% increase in the price of clothing over that period.

Irbid has been hit worst by price increase among the places listed in the bulletin. Its consumer price index now stands at 329 (and this is on a base of 1969=100). The index for fruit there is now a staggering 2769. Irbid's price index also rose between September and October 1977, but unlike Zarqa's, this was mainly because of rising prices of food, rather than rents or clothing.

The bulletin also gives figures for the relative importance of groups of expenditure for civil servants as it was in 1968. Food accounted for 36 per cent, alcohol for 0.8 per cent and rent for 14 per cent.



The Rt Hon Frederick Mulley

### Britain's Defence Minister visits Jordan

AMMAN, Jan. 6 (JNA). — British Minister of Defence Frederick Mulley arrives here with a delegation tomorrow on a three-day visit during which he will meet with senior Jordanian officials and tour a number of army units. He is here as the official guest of Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

The delegation includes among others Mr. R. Anderson, Deputy Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, and Mr. David Young, M.P.

### BUSINESS GRAPEVINE

Compiled and edited by John Bonar

#### Expanding quickly on a local base

Jordan-Kuwait Bank, whose Chairman Sheikh Nasser Al Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, recently visited Jordan for the Bank's first board meeting, is engaged in a rapid expansion programme. The first of three joint venture banks licensed by the Central Bank last year to open, it began operations from its Jabbal Amman branch last October.

On Jan. 1 it opened its prestigious head office and main branch in Abdali near the Al Hussein mosque in Amman. Another branch is under construction and General Manager Mr. Afif El Hasan expects it to be ready within six months.

The Bank's management is also studying the best locations to establish a series of mini-branches throughout Amman which will perform limited functions such as cheque cashing for customers.

They are also studying plans for new branches in Aqaba, Irbid and other towns in Jordan.

At the end of November, total assets of the new bank topped JD 7 million.

The bank is also counteracting the Jordanian brain drain in a small way. Amongst its employees are twenty experienced Jordanian bankers it has recruited from banks in Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Libya and the Gulf.

The bank's activities have largely been restricted to short term finance in the fields of tourism, commerce, industry and agriculture as well as consumer loans to individual account holders.

"One of our main aims is to help finance Jordanian exports," Mr. El Hasan says. "In the future we will be looking at going into medium term finance and possibly even long term finance."

#### Shipping slump?

The cost of shipping containers from Europe to Jeddah has been getting so cheap that the container shipping lines serving the route are going to enforce a minimum price for their services.

This could be the beginning of a trend as more and more Middle Eastern ports become more efficient in their handling operations and more and more container shipping lines seek to break into the route. Ten shipping lines serving Jeddah enforced the minimum rate at the beginning of the year. The best known amongst them are Cunard, P & O, and Blue Funnel. Since 1975 the capacity on the Europe-Jeddah service has increased from about 1,500 tons a month to 30,000 tons. Rates have reportedly been cut by 25 per cent.

#### Jumping the gun a bit?

While politicians are watching the Egyptian-Israeli peace talks with anxiety, foreign businessmen are rubbing their hands in glee at the prospect of vast new markets opening up amongst Egypt's 40 million population for western consumer goods in the wake of peace settlement allowing a economic shift away from the military.

Surely one of the most perceptive in his search for business in Tel Aviv advertising executive Haim Peled who issued a quarter page advert in Al Ahram recently with the simple headline "Let's talk business" followed by the name, address, telephone and telex numbers of the Tel Aviv agency which bears his name.

Mr. Peled reportedly phoned the ad through a telephone call to Al Ahram's advertising department from his Tel Aviv office. There was a four hour delay on the person to person call but no one is sure how long the delay will be. Mr. Peled getting any business from Egypt.

## Advertise by mail In the Jordan Times

The Jordan Times can accept classified advertisements that are sent in by mail and accompanied by full payment in cash. Readers and advertisers who cannot conveniently bring their advertisements to the Jordan Times office or to an advertising agency office in Amman may send in their ads by mail on the following conditions:

1. Full payment in cash accompanies the advertisement.
2. The minimum charge for a single advertisement is JD 3.
3. Advertisements sent by mail cannot contain any artwork such as company emblems, photos or drawings, but must consist only of a headline and copy that will be typeset by the Jordan Times.
4. Advertisements are not accepted over the telephone or telex, and guaranteed insertions on specific dates can only be assured by sending in the advertisements so they reach the Jordan Times office at least two days before the required day of publication.
5. For the minimum price of JD 3, the advertiser will have published an advertisement of three centimetres on two columns, which will have a maximum of 30 words, including the headline and telephone numbers to be called. The JD 3 charge is for one insertion; two insertions cost JD 6, three insertions cost JD 9, etc.
6. For a larger ad, the rates are JD 4 for 40 words and JD 5 for 50 words.
7. You can take advantage of the Jordan Times advertising by mail facility by completing the form below and mailing it with full payment in cash only to:

Advertising Department  
 The Jordan Times  
 P.O. Box 6710  
 Amman, Jordan

Advertisers in Jordan must pay in Jordanian dinars; those in Syria may pay in Syrian currency at the going conversion rate.

(write one word only per box - please print)


Please publish the above advertisement in the Jordan Times on \_\_\_\_\_ day (s). Enclosed is payment of \_\_\_\_\_

Name:  
 Address:  
 Signature:



Rauf Abujaber says in interview

# Demand for Amstel grows at 10% a year as more and younger Jordanians turn to beer

By Lee S. Tendell  
Special to the Jordan Times

More and more younger Jordanians are drinking beer and demand for the local Amstel brand is going up by ten per cent a year. Mr. Rauf Abujaber, general manager of the brewery company told the Jordan Times.

In order to finance the plant expansion to meet this increasing demand the Jordan Brewery Co. Ltd. has trebled the capital in the last year to JD 450,000 through two public issues of shares.

The company started production on its plant on Oct. 4, 1958. From April 1959 to March 1969 they produced 530,680 large bottles of beer (65 cl.) and 64,108 small bottles of beer (35 cl.). During the 1976 production year they produced 5,202,360 large bottles of beer and 217,464 small bottles.

Mr. Abujaber expects the demand for beer to continue growing at a rate of about ten per cent a year in Jordan.

"About 30 per cent of our production goes to hotels and restaurants, and about 70 per cent to private consumption", he said.

Mr. Abujaber went on to explain to the Jordan Times that production capacity has been greatly increased recently through the addition of new equipment and facilities.

The 1976 capacity of the plant was 36,000 hectolitres of beer presently the capacity is 80,000 hectolitres and, "with the addition of a few more tanks" said Mr. Abujaber, the capacity will be raised to 100,000 hectolitres.

"In order to raise the necessary capital for the expansion shares were offered for sale to the public twice in 1977. The capital which the firm started with in 1955 was JD 50,000. In 1969 the paid up capital was raised to JD 150,000. In early

1977 capital was raised to JD 225,000; 50 per cent of those new shares were bought by old share holders and the rest by new investors. The second capital increase was JD 450,000.

The shares, each of a JD 1 value, went on sale to the public and were bought up before the closing date on Dec. 28, 1977. Among the investors in the new shares were Jordan Tobacco Fund Account, P.T.T. Savings Fund, various charitable societies and individuals.

Of about 300 total shareholders in the firm, 100 are new and of those who have recently bought shares, 70 bought less than JD 500 worth each.

Previous to 1977, each share in the company had a value of JD 10. But at an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in October 1977 the JD 1 denomination was decided upon as Mr. Khalil Lahleh, Manager of the company said "to be in line with the general trend."

Mr. Lahleh, who has been with the brewery since 1964, explained that the firm will probably not need to raise more capital for another "two to three years."

The most recent sale of shares was arranged through the Chase Manhattan Bank of New York, the reason being, Mr. Abujaber explained, that all of the necessary facilities and expertise are not readily available here in Amman.

Mr. Emile Ghazzawi, designed the original brewery plant in 1944.

Three major shareholders made up the original owners of the firm. They were Abujaber and Sons, Amstel of Holland, and Mr. Joudah Siwadi, JD 50,000 out of the original JD 90,000 in capital was held by them. The remaining JD 40,000 was covered by public subscription.

The firm itself was established in 1955, but they could

not begin operations then because the Suez Crisis delayed delivery of equipment for one year.

The machinery, coming from Holland, Belgium, Germany, France and the United States, finally arrived, and on Oct. 4, 1958 production finally began.

Mr. Abujaber says that "choice raw materials are used in the preparation of the beer. The maize comes from Germany and Holland, and the hops come from Yugoslavia and Germany."

He stressed that the beer contains only natural products, "water, malt, maize and hops". Asked about the quality of water, Mr. Abujaber said that the quantity is not a problem, but that the quality sometimes varies.

The relationship between Amstel of Holland and the Jordanian company has existed from the start, but even before the local firm was formed, Amstel was being sold in Jordan. Saad Abujaber has been the agent for the foreign produced beer since 1948. In 1952, Amstel had 56 per cent of the local beer market.

After two attempts by Mr. Abujaber's firm, one in 1954 and one the next year, Amstel agreed to go into partnership.

At present, Amstel owns 16.66 per cent of the equity. The chairman of the seven member board of directors is Mr. Farhan Saad Abujaber.

During 1976 only 15,346 bottles of Amstel of the 65 cl. size were imported, into Jordan, whereas the local company was selling more than five million of the same size, 356,122 small bottles of the 35 cl. size were imported during the same period; this figure included both cans and bottles.

Mr. Abujaber believes that the recent increase in sales represents both an improvement in marketing the beer in Jordan and an approximate 10

per cent annual increase in demand. He explained that young Jordanians are learning to appreciate beer. In the countryside, however, where people have a more traditional life-style, beer consumption is not high, he said.

The company has gone into the production of barrel beer recently also. "We have about 25 draught outlets," said Mr. Abujaber, "which constitute about five per cent of our sales."

The kegs themselves, he said, come from Holland and Germany.

As to the future of canned beer in Jordan, Mr. Abujaber thinks that at some time in the future, his firm may can beer, but not very soon.

He pointed out that "each can costs about 60-70 fils and is usable once, but bottles are usable about 10 times, and cost just a little more than cans to produce".

Also, he said, the equipment for canning is expensive.

The wholesale price of beer has not changed much in the 18 years of local production said Mr. Abujaber.

In 1953 the price for a large bottle was 120 fils including the 50 fils tax placed on it by the government.

In 1977 the price, he said, is 180 fils including the same government tax.

During this time the sales of beer have increased about tenfold. Mr. Abujaber said. Labour costs including management were approximately 18 per cent of the total net sales after taxes, but the increase in sales was more than adequate to cover this and other increases in expenditure.

Mr. Abujaber, who is the General Manager of the firm, is a native of Salt and studied at the American University in Beirut. He is active in other businesses in Amman and is the Honorary Consul General of Netherlands in Jordan.

## Europeans learn to live with bombings

More people in Western Europe are learning to live with the threat of bomb blasts -- sudden, frightening and destructive. Explosive devices, often planted or posted by anonymous hands, are driving home the ugly fact that danger lurks in even the busiest streets, shops and offices, by day and night. With the new year scarcely under way the bombers are making themselves felt across Europe, from Spain and France to Malta and Greece. In many cases the reasons behind the bombings are obscure, although the effects are devastatingly clear. Here is the picture from Reuters reports in Europe.

LONDON, (R). -- Europa at the moment is enduring a veritable epidemic of bombs. But, whoever the bombers are, they are taking great care to avoid human injury. That would be bad publicity and headlines seem to be the main objective.

The targets are so varied that it is hard for the police to take special precautions. Nobody knows where the bombers will strike next.

Recent targets were a fashionable Paris night club, a suburban railway station, trade union offices, a judge's flat and a Benedictine monastery.

The bombers, if they are identified at all, are as varied as their targets. They range from Breton and Corsican separatists to social misfits and even, on one occasion, wine-growers angered by the Common Market agricultural policy.

But they have one thing in common. Police are worried by the increasing sophistication and the bombers' skill at inflicting maximum damage by careful planting of the charges.

In Rome, the situation is just as serious. Scarcely a night goes by without at least one

## Absurdity's loophole By Bassam Bishuti

### A year's worth of absurdity

When I started to smear the pages of the Jordan Times with my weekly loopholes of absurdity, exactly one year ago this Saturday, the political air was buzzing with talk of the imminence of Middle East peace. The United Nations, which still had something to say about the matter, had just adopted an urgent resolution for the speedy reconvening of the Geneva peace conference thus allowing the idea of the conference to re-emerge from the dustbin of history. The urgency shock us all and people started betting that 1977 will be the year in which peace will finally come to the Middle East.

In opening my first loophole of absurdity one year ago I thought of nothing better than to be contrary so I proclaimed that 1977 will pass before a peace settlement is achieved. This stroke of genius in accurate prediction was the result of two factors, as I stated at the time: my own subjective hunch that peace will not come in 1977 and what the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung told me in a dream -- which I couldn't understand because I didn't know Chinese.

That was 52 weeks, and 42 Absurdity's loopholes, ago -- because I missed ten during the year. Now, Middle East peace buzzes in the political air again and there are some, I am sure, who are betting that 1978 will "be the year in which peace will finally come to the Middle East." We call these compulsive gamblers.

As for me, I still don't know Chinese and the late Chairman Mao no longer appears in my dreams. Nowadays, I have nightmares of

Begin-Sadat press conferences which have utterly squashed my subjective hunches. Add to this that the issue has been jolted by President Sadat's controversial initiative of a personal visit to Israel, as well as the "preliminary" and "other" peace talks held in Egypt. These factors have clouded the issue with too much emotionalism for anyone but a wishful thinker to offer to place a reasonable bet on what 1978 may bring to the Middle East.

But I never hesitate to stick my neck out -- because of natural bluntness not courage -- and at the risk of being proved wrong I am going, once again, to make a prediction: I hereby declare that 1978 will bring just about anything to the Middle East.

My reasons for this prediction are again twofold: the fact that President Sadat is so determined to have peace, and the fact that the Israelis are anxious to appear as peace-lovers while not willing to concede anything. With these factors at play I can imagine 1978 developing into a year in which a state of undeclared termination of hostilities will come to exist without any actual peace treaty signed and without any problem solved. Some people will call this "peace", others will call it "no war and no peace" and some will be too bored to call it anything. In strict mathematical terms this is called a state of absurdity.

Which is my way of saying that 1978 will bring just about anything to the Middle East and I am definitely sure of it -- O.K., will you believe "positively certain"? How about "resolutely confident"? "Earnestly hopeful" anyone? Forget it!

bomb blast as groups of leftists and neo-fascists attack each other.

Terrorism has been rife in Italy for several years, but last year set new records for bombings, petrol bomb attacks and other incidents of political bombing.

Although frequent, they are rarely very destructive. The usual pattern is for a device containing less than one kilo of explosives to be placed outside the chosen target or for a group of youths to drive in on motorbikes to political offices and throw petrol bombs at them.

Living in a country where kidnapping and other violent crime is commonplace, Italians are also learning to live with terrorist attacks and bomb blasts.

In Spain, the people are also having to cope with bombs, which have been a part of the scene since 1973 when Basque nationalist guerrillas blew up Prime Minister Luis Carrero Blanco.

The main characteristic of Spanish bombings so far is that they have also claimed the lives of ordinary civilians.

Their most frequent targets are police stations, law courts, electricity pylons and television transmitters which are not the sort of places people hang around at night when the bombers invariably strike.

The bombers pick their targets carefully with the aim of weakening their enemies, rather than intimidating civilians.

The one exception to this has been the Canary Islands independence movement whose bombing campaign is designed to stop the flow of tourists to the sun-drenched Archipelago off the North African coast.

Although none of their bombs has directly claimed lives, it could be argued that they were responsible for the world's worst air crash when two jumbo jets collided over Tenerife Airport as the planes were diverted to the airport because of a bombing at Las Palmas Airport.

In Greece security forces are getting concerned over a spate of terrorist incidents in the past few weeks.

At one point, a few years ago, it looked as if London

might go the way of Belfast. At that time the IRA was moving its bombing campaign into Britain.

But nothing of that sort happened for some time and public security slackened.

But the recent killing of three Arabs in London has led to increased precautions.

Until the '70s, most Britons were convinced "it can't happen here."

The same is true of Malta where, until a few years ago, bomb attacks were very rare.

Now all that has changed. Attacks by bombs or explosive devices have become more frequent and more dangerous in recent months.

The victims in recent months have included a boxing referee, an agricultural officer, a soccer club official, a policeman, a building contractor and a 15-year-old girl.

No one in Malta believes the attacks have a political motive. No one has ever claimed responsibility for a bomb outrage and there are no terrorist movements in Malta.

Also, despite intensive police investigations, no bomber has ever been caught.

## AMMAN MARKETPLACE

**RESTAURANTS**

**THE FLYING CARPET CLUB**  
opens for dinner  
an elegant  
oriental  
BUFFET  
TEL: 6121 AMMAN

**Charcoal Grill Restaurant**  
2nd Circle, near the French Post  
Presents to  
**FAMILIES PICKNICKERS**  
1500 hours every 15 Minutes  
Serving Shish Kebab and Saffron  
Chicken on our specialties  
With extra hot sauce. Ticket for  
one person only.  
Our special very common & rare menu  
Tel. 42632

**MANDARIN CHINESE RESTAURANT**  
Welcome to our newly opened  
Chinese Restaurant located at  
the 2nd Circle, near the French Post  
School for Girls.  
Operating daily from 12:00 to 10:00  
and 10:00 to 12:00 Tel. 25781

**To advertise in this section**

phone 6774-2-3

**FURNITURE**

Our fine products made by experienced Finnish  
craftsmen include the following:  
• Furniture for the home and office.  
• Ceramic dishes and tableware.  
• Handcrafted jewelry.

**FINLANDIA**  
Our fine products made by experienced Finnish  
craftsmen include the following:  
• Furniture for the home and office.  
• Ceramic dishes and tableware.  
• Handcrafted jewelry.

**AD-DAR**  
FOR THE MOST PRACTICAL AND  
LUXURIOUS FURNITURE.  
WE ALSO CARRY A WIDE VARIETY  
OF THE MOST CONTEMPORARY  
LIGHTING.  
Prince Mohammed St.  
P.O. Box 9025, Tel. 25006, Amman - Jordan

**EUROPEAN FURNITURE SHOWROOM**  
400 SQUARE METRES OF SITTING ROOMS  
CARPETS, FURNITURE & LIGHTING FITTINGS  
most elegant, suitable & functional  
ABDALL NEAR B.B.M.E. BRANCH  
TEL. 65693-65778

**Tyche Furniture Co. Ltd.**  
Visit one of our show-  
rooms today and see  
magnificent furniture  
from all Europe.  
Civil Defence Rd. (Next to May Road)  
Bin Ghazal Rd. (Opp. unknown soldier monument)

**FOOD MARKETS ETC.**

**Argento House**  
Tel. 44238-44943  
**More than 50**  
Varieties of  
**deluxe French**  
biscuits for all occasions

**OPTIKOS SHAMI O.D.**  
The best Ever Made in Optic  
Jordan Intercontinental Hotel Tel. 42043

**SWEETS**

**CONFECTIONERY GIFTS BONBONNIERS**  
**PATCHI**  
JABAL AMMAN, HADJI KASSAB ST. TEL. 4160  
JABAL HUSSEIN, KUNDAHIN RD. TEL. 3999

**CAPRICCI**  
Tel. 25002  
Cafe, Restaurant, Bar, Lounge, Club, Night Club, Disco, Dance, Show, Entertainment, Music, Sound, Lighting, etc.

**TRAVEL & SHIPPING**

**JORDAN EXPRESS CO.**  
TRAVEL TOURISM  
PACKING FREIGHT FORWARDING  
TRANSIT  
INSURANCE  
WORLD WIDE SERVICE  
P.O. Box 9025, Tel. 25006, Amman - Jordan

**SHIPPING INSURANCE**  
TRAVEL & TOURISM  
WORLD-WIDE HOTEL RESERVATIONS  
AIR CARGO FORWARDERS  
CLEARANCE DOOR TO DOOR  
Phone: 612121  
**AMIN KAWAR & SONS**  
Travel & Tourist Agency  
P.O. Box 222, AMMAN TEL: 3334-9  
TELEX: 4281529

**RENT**  
**A**  
**CAR**

**SATELLITE**  
RENT-A-CAR  
BRAND NEW  
1977  
MODELS  
TEL. 25767

**NATIONAL**  
RENT-A-CAR  
SHEPARD HOTEL  
Tel. 39197-8

**NATIONAL**  
RENT-A-CAR  
SHEPARD HOTEL  
Tel. 39197-8

**FLOWER SHOPS**

**FLOWERS PLANTS**  
**Bouquet**  
Our experts specialise in gar-  
dening, landscaping & plant  
maintenance.  
Shmussary Rd. Tel. 67820

**TALAL AGRICULTURE CO.**  
Gardening contractors.  
All kinds of flowers  
for all occasions.  
Decorative plants for indoors  
& outdoors imported from  
Italy & Holland.  
Plastic vases.  
KING HUSSEIN ST. TEL. 25006  
AMMAN

**BUSINESS**  
SUPPLIES

Let the specialists provide you  
with all your office equipment needs!!  
**THE JORDAN EDUCATIONAL CO. LTD.**  
(Largest and best known)  
"THE OFFICE EQUIPMENT CENTER OF JORDAN"  
Showrooms • King Hussein St. Tel. 24122-3  
Offices • Prince Mohammad St. Tel. 42724



# South Africa denies existence of nuclear cooperation treaty with West Germany

JOHANNESBURG, Jan. 6 (AFP). — The President of the South African Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. A. J. A. Roux, denied here today that any formal nuclear cooperation treaty existed between South Africa and West Germany. Dr. Roux was commenting in an interview in the Afrikaans-language newspaper Beeld on a book The Nuclear Axis, due for publication in London shortly under the editorship of Julian Friedman.

The book aimed, according to Dr. Roux's interpretation, to embarrass Bonn and Pretoria with baseless accusations. Even at the level of council committees there was no nuclear cooperation between the two countries although it did exist until relatively recently between South Africa and Britain at this level, he said. Nor was there any agree-

ment on nuclear cooperation of the kind which had existed since 1957 between South Africa and the U.S., Dr. Roux said. However, three specific areas of nuclear cooperation with West Germany had been in existence de facto despite the absence of cooperation agreements for several years he said. South African nuclear physi-

cists had received basic training in West Germany, visiting German nuclear installations, and in return West German scientists had visited South Africa, he said.

The East German firm Steag collaborated with South Africa between 1973 and 1975 on studies of the possible installation of an uranium enrichment complex in South Africa, but cooperation in this area came to an end in September, 1975 in the absence of any formal agreement Dr. Roux said.

Moreover, South Africa had been supplying uranium to several specialist West German firms for several years, the nuclear chief added.

But Dr. Roux said he could affirm that West Germany had never delivered any material that could be described as "sensitive" to South Africa's nuclear industry.

Those who wished to embarrass the two governments should first provide proof to back their insinuations, he said.

## Iraqi soldiers, police will get pay increase

BAGHDAD, Jan. 6 (R). — Iraqi soldiers and police get pay increases under a decree announced yesterday, the Iraq News Agency (INA) reported.

The decree also provides for a pay rise for teachers, unskilled workers and drivers in government-controlled sectors. The daily minimum wage of an unskilled worker has also been raised to one dinar (about \$3) from 650 fils (about \$2), the agency said.

## Taiwan takes action to settle shipping disputes with Arabs

TAIPEI, Jan. 6 (R). — Taiwan is taking urgent steps to settle its shipping disputes with the Arab World, it was announced today.

Premier Chiang Ching-kuo has ordered the Ministries of Economic Affairs and of Communications to take prompt action, the government Information Office said.

He expressed grave concern after being briefed at a cabinet meeting yesterday by Economics Minister Y.S. Sun and Communications Minister Lin Chin-shen.

According to informed sources, the premier said that shipping commissions and trading firms found to have acted illegally should be referred to law enforcement agencies for investigation and possible prosecution.

The Vice-Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr. Y. T. Wong, told the legislative Yuan (Parliament) this week that in the past 25 months there had been 48 shipping disputes on the Taiwan-Middle East route. Of these, 37 cases involving 126,000 metric tons of cargo for the Middle East market remained unsettled.

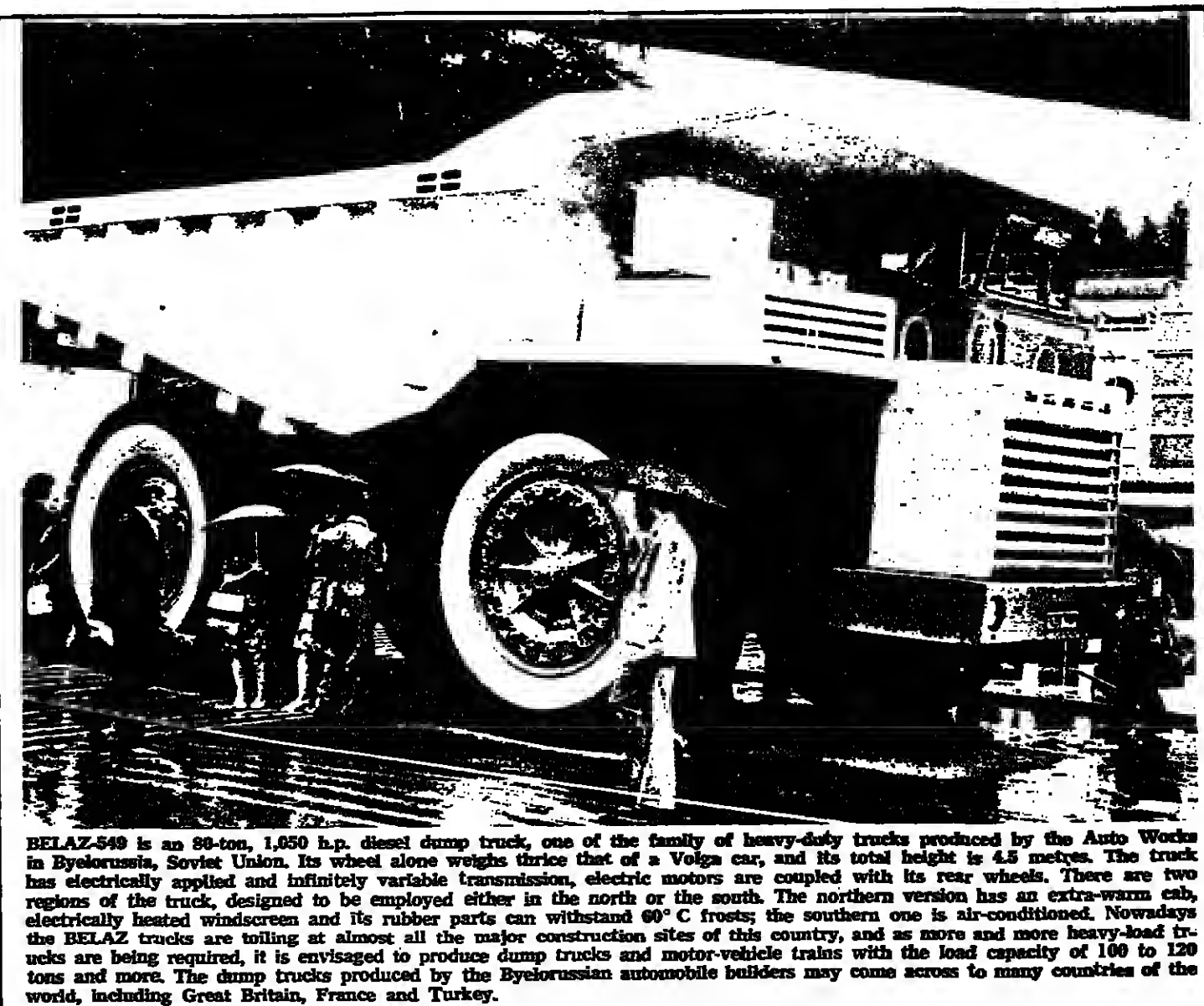
## Ethiopians nationalise Singer Co.

ADDIS ABABA, Jan. 6 (AFP). — The Ethiopian branch of the American Singer Company has been nationalised, Radio Ethiopia reported yesterday.

The radio said the company was exploiting the Ethiopian masses.

This is the first nationalisation since February, 1975 when the military government put 72 privately-owned industrial and commercial companies under state control.

Singer has been operating in Ethiopia for about 80 years. It had a capital of 60 million birr (\$30 million) two years ago.



BELAZ-540 is an 80-ton, 1,650 h.p. diesel dump truck, one of the family of heavy-duty trucks produced by the Auto Works in Byelorussia, Soviet Union. Its wheel alone weighs three times that of a Volga car, and its total height is 4.5 metres. The truck has electrically applied and infinitely variable transmission, electric motors are coupled with its rear wheels. There are two regions of the truck, designed to be employed either in the north or the south. The northern version has an extra-warm cab, electrically heated windscreen and its rubber parts can withstand 60° C frosts; the southern one is air-conditioned. Nowadays the BELAZ trucks are toiling at almost all the major construction sites of this country, and as more and more heavy-load trucks are being required, it is envisaged to produce dump trucks and motor-vehicle trains with the load capacity of 100 to 120 tons and more. The dump trucks produced by the Byelorussian automobile builders may come across to many countries of the world, including Great Britain, France and Turkey.

# Rich and poor get nowhere on the big debt problem

After a year in which moves toward a new international economic order made little progress, a conference held in Geneva on the Third World's debt problems ended in a deadlock that was all of a pattern with other recent rich-poor negotiations. The Third World argues that its debts of around \$225 billion pose a critical problem. The rich say there is no overall debt problem, but that each country is a different case.

By Iain Guest

GENEVA — Just how serious is the Third World's debt problem? A UNCTAD conference of government experts, just finished in Geneva, has shown that the West and the developing countries are seriously divided on this key factor in North-South relations. The conference was intended to pull together the threads of whatever agreement exists and prepare the guidelines for

at the conference is first that there is no overall common debt problem. Each country, goes the argument, is its own case. And this is the main reason why the West resisted the call for across-the-board debt cancellation at the UNCTAD 4 Conference in Nairobi May 1976.

The second argument from the Western camp is that until a country is teetering on the brink of bankruptcy, it has no "debt problem". A handful of countries have been so seriously embarrassed by their debts that they have either defaulted or asked for extensions on repaying interest -- Zaire, North Korea, India. Others have borrowed massively from commercial banks -- Brazil, Peru, Chile, and Zambia.

Another point being made by Western spokesmen last week was that a "debt problem" is quite different from a country's development. Its debts can be critical, but its development full of potential -- as with Brazil. Or the reverse: Its development can be perilous with low growth and massive unemployment -- as with Bangladesh. But Bangladesh's debt situation is negligible, since the bulk of its aid is in the form of grants at soft rates.

In short, the West argues that the debt problem is not nearly so serious as it is made out to be. The Group B (Western) paper, after noting that the cost of servicing those \$150 billion had risen from \$6 billion in 1967 to \$32 billion in 1976, stated that it "looks much less dramatic when one allows for the growth of real output and trade that has taken place in the world economy and for the inflation that has occurred."

The Third World's Group of 77 disagreed with this position on every single point. It argued for across-the-board relief -- not cancellation -- for the poorest countries, and maintained strongly that they have a serious, common problem with debts.

They proposed that the official (i.e. government) loans of the 29 least developed countries (LDCs), which came to \$2.2 billion at the end of 1975, be cancelled. They also demanded that the terms of official loans to the 49 countries most seriously affected by the recent oil crisis (MSAs), be softened, to bring them into line with terms under which loans are made to the World Bank.

These would be repayable after 50, not 25 years, carrying average interest of 3/4 per cent instead of the current 2 per cent and containing a grant element of 86 per cent not 52 per cent.

This strategy was strongly supported by Sweden, which along with three other Western countries -- the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Canada -- has recently cancelled the official debts of its poorest debtors. The total amounts cancelled are over \$400 million, in actual loans and repayments.

The rest of the Western group was visibly dismayed by the Swedish statement, and also by this spate of unilateral

debt cancellations.

Some delegates said that the principle of creditworthiness would be affected -- and countries would be encouraged to default on their commercial as well as their official debts. This was thought to be a major concern of the U.S., whose private banks are estimated to owe \$50 billion to Third World debtors.

But one UNCTAD official said that the issue of creditworthiness had no place in the debate -- which concerns government loans, not commercial.

"The main difference," he said, "is that governments loan to those countries which are unable to pay back large amounts of interest. The poorest countries have never been creditworthy. Imagine Bangladesh trying to raise money in New York!"

"This is why those countries most indebted to commercial banks -- Zaire, Brazil, Peru, Chile and Mexico -- are middle-income countries and not the poorest. They can afford to offer guarantees on their loans of valuable raw materials."

This official also maintained that debts and development were part of the same problem. Like spokesmen for the Group 77, he also argues that a country's debt problem begins long before bankruptcy threatens.

Debt repayments impose a crippling drain on foreign currency reserves. The total amount may not seem large -- it cost the MSAs \$3.6 billion to service official debts in 1976 -- but it is rising steadily at the rate of about 10 per cent a year.

"Look at it this way," says the UNCTAD official. "You can't expect Bangladesh to service its debts, remain 'creditworthy' and increase its growth rate, while its manufactured goods cannot be sold in the EEC because of quota restrictions and while the cost of essential manufactured imports is rising faster than the value of its raw materials."

"Because all the LDCs are caught in this vicious spiral, it certainly makes sense to call for an across-the-board solution, and a debt conference. And because a country's debts are so closely connected with its trade, they are also part of its development."

"Relieving their official debts," he concludes, "will do nothing to damage the creditworthiness of rich nations. But it will do something to increase the growth of poor nations, which has been low and stagnant at around 3 per cent for the last five years. And that, paradoxically, might start to make them creditworthy."

## Japanese foreign minister to tour Gulf

TOKYO, Jan. 6 (R). — Japanese Foreign Minister Sumo Sonoda will leave here on Jan. 13 for a week-long tour of four Middle East oil producing countries the Foreign Ministry said today. Mr. Sonoda will be the first Japanese foreign minister to make an official visit to Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. He will also visit Iran unofficially on his way to and from the three Gulf states. In the other countries, the Japanese minister will exchange views with government leaders on bilateral issues and the international situation, the ministry said.

## Gale winds close Athens Airport

ATHENS, Jan. 6 (R). — All domestic and international flights from Athens Airport have been cancelled because of gale force winds in the area, an airport spokesman said today. A few planes from abroad which tried to land gave up and were diverted to other countries. Greek harbour authorities banned the sailing of all vessels because of gales in the Aegean and Ionian Seas, a spokesman for the Ministry of Merchant Marine said. Heavy rain and snow during the night and below-freezing temperatures disrupted communications in northern and central Greece.

## Portuguese aviation board recommends no landing at Funchal Airport when raining

LISBON, Jan. 6 (R). — Portugal's Civil Aviation Authority has recommended that planes do not attempt to land at Funchal Airport in Madeira when it is raining. A Boeing 727 of the Portuguese national airline Tap crashed off the end of the airport's runway last Nov. 18, killing 129 of its 164 passengers. A preliminary report published yesterday by a Commission of Inquiry said the airline probably aquaplaned on the wet runway in a rain storm.

## LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

	Jordanian J.S.
	Buying/Selling
U.S. dollar	315.00/317.00
U.K. sterling	590.00/594.00
W. German mark	147.30/148.20
Swiss franc	154.00/154.90
French franc	66.6/67.00
Italian lire (for every 100)	35.90/36.10
Japanese yen (for every 100)	130.40/131.20
Dutch guilder	138.10/138.90
Belgian franc (for every ten)	85.30/85.90
Swedish crown	66.60/67.10

### To our readers

Editor's note: The Jordan Times is suspending publication of what are supposed to be daily financial bulletins on the New York and London stock markets, the London gold market and the London international exchange rates. Due to erratic reception of this information, primarily because of technical interference, we have not been able to provide this information to our readers on a daily basis, and we have decided to suspend publication until we find ourselves able to publish this financial news on a more reliably regular basis.

# Anti-nuclear sentiment is picking up speed, but what are the alternatives?

A three-month public inquiry into plans for a new nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in Britain ended recently. But the "do-or-don't" debate about nuclear power continues on an international scale. Anti-nuclear campaigners want world governments to abandon their nuclear power policies. What are the dangers of nuclear power, and what are the alternatives?

By Nick Cole

LONDON, (GNS). — World-wide plans to resolve the energy crisis are meeting stiff opposition from anti-nuclear movements in many countries. The wave of protest has swept nations as widespread as the United States and Australia, Sweden and Spain.

In Britain, dissent reached a crescendo during the recent public inquiry into plans for a new £300 million nuclear fu-

el reprocessing plant at Windscale, Cumbria.

Although the 100-day inquiry is closed, and the inspector's report awaited, the lobbying continues, with anti-nuclear groups now pleading their case with the ultimate decision-makers, parliament and the cabinet.

The protesters, mainly representing environmental and trades union groups claiming all-party support, fear that the development of the plant, link-

ed with the plutonium economy, will bring the world closer to nuclear war, encourage nuclear terrorism, and lead to the formation of a police state to protect the atomic material.

Some of them claim that reprocessing is unnecessary for the safe disposal of nuclear waste, and that the attendant health risk is neither fully understood nor sufficiently safeguarded against.

One witness told the inquiry that the radiation risks to Windscale workers were 20 times higher than believed previously.

When such dangers were explained to London dockers, picket lines formed in protest against the expected arrival of uranium cargoes from Australia.

Anti-uranium demonstrators had previously bombarded an ore-carrying ship with wreaths as it left Sydney harbour -- a token reminder of the 200,000 killed at Hiroshima, the first atom bomb target, in August 1945.

Meanwhile, opposition to nuclear power in West Germany has found expression in mass demonstrations against plans for a chain of power stations and reprocessing plants. A group of about 1,000 people have since occupied a site opposite the proposed power

station. Another occupation took place in the U.S. where protesters invaded the Seabrook nuclear power plant in a non-violent demonstration -- one of several in the U.S. this year.

In Spain, which is on the brink of nuclear technology, protesters plan a national demonstration for Christmas week. They are urging the government to halt energy planning "which implies the use of nuclear power."

In Sweden 20,000 demonstrators campaigned against the country's nuclear programme, which calls for 13 reactors by 1985 (the world's most ambitious nuclear power scheme).

Despite the numerically impressive turnouts on such demonstrations, the element of universal popular support is lacking. Anarchist agitators, Marxist-Leninist cells, and "straight left" groups have predominated.

Lord Silsoe, who represented the Windscale plant-owners, British Nuclear Fuels Ltd., at the recent public inquiry, referred to plutonium as an energy source "with so much potential for evil, and also so much power for good."

Could it be right, he asked, to deny the world the huge energy potential which could be tapped by extracting plutonium

and uranium from spent nuclear fuel, when it seemed likely there would be a severe energy shortage by the end of the century?

Sir John Hill, Chairman of the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority, said that waste uranium from British power stations could provide electricity for 300 years if "bred" in fast-breeder reactors.

Anti-nuclear power campaigners point out that waste by-products of nuclear power generation are more dangerous than those produced by burning oil or coal, because they are radioactive.

The Windscale inquiry was told of the need for improved international safeguards, but that the cause of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons would not be served by Britain opting out of the reprocessing business (worth an estimated £800 million annually).

Such a course might force other countries to build their own reprocessing plants and thereby hasten their move towards nuclear arms status.

On balance, the consensus view is that this argument will prevail; but even if the government gives the immediate go-ahead, another 10 years will elapse before the plant will be ready to operate.

The inquiry inspector, Mr. Justice Parker, said there basic questions were involved: Should nuclear fuels be processed in Britain at all? Should it be done at Windscale? And should the plant be large enough to handle foreign as well as British fuels?

The anti-nuclear campaigners say any final decision now on the Windscale plant would be premature, dangerous and misinformed. Furthermore, they claim Britain already has enough plutonium available, and that if more is needed, a cheaper, safer plant can be built. They believe that nuclear waste can safely be stored under water.

**SOON IN AMMAN**

**TASTE THE FAMOUS**

**CUISINE**

IN BEIRUT, TEL. 348308/348307

NICOSIA 49616/49617

LONDON 570-1225/2248

**INDIAN RESTAURANTS**

**A QUALIFIED SEAMSTRESS IN SIX MONTHS**

Interested ladies can become qualified seamstresses in six months under the tutelage of a well known seamstress in Amman. The French methods are taught theoretically and practically.

For more information call 36783, MISS ERFAT ALAMEDDIN







# Vietnamese forces reportedly within sight of Phnom Penh

SINGAPORE, Jan. 6 (Agencies). — Vietnamese forces were today reported within 56 kms. of the, Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh in a swift advance which diplomats believed could be aimed at forcing changes in the Cambodian government. Diplomatic sources here said the Vietnamese had reached the Mekong River and were gradually taking over the area around Neak Luong, the main river crossing on the strategic Highway One, which links Phnom Penh with the South Vietnamese capital of Ho Chi Minh City -- formerly Saigon.

Control of Highway One would enable the Vietnamese to cut the Cambodian supply line to troops fighting farther east in the Parrot's Beak salient.

Diplomats here said the size of the Vietnamese operation -- now believed to involve several divisions backed by tanks and warplanes -- suggested that it was designed to bring pressure on the Cam-

bodian government to rid itself of anti-Vietnamese elements. Cambodia announced last Saturday that it was temporarily severing diplomatic relations with Vietnam, which it accused of having invaded Cambodian territory.

Vietnam has repeatedly called for peace talks to settle the border dispute which has flared intermittently since the communist victories in Indo-

china in 1975 and has recently escalated into full-scale fighting.

Cambodia said today that Vietnamese forces had invaded Cambodian territory along the entire length of the 800-kms. border between the two countries.

A statement by the Cambodian Ministry of Information, read over Radio Phnom Penh, accused Vietnam of trying to

force Cambodia to join what it called a Vietnam-dominated Indochinese federation.

The radio, in its first detailed description of the fighting, said the Vietnamese were trying to capture the town of Svay Rieng, the capital of Svay Rieng Province which forms the Parrot's Beak.

Meanwhile, in Hanoi the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry today held a press conference attended by the diplomatic corps and foreign journalists to display a film, documents and photographs illustrating the frontier incidents with Cambodia.

The pictures showed disembowelled women, decapitated children, the bodies of adults thrown into ponds and rivers, burned-out villages, churches or Buddhist temples destroyed by rockets, and tons of rice and dozens of cattle that had been destroyed by fire.

One of the photographs mounted on nine panels in the main hall of the International Club showed a letter in the Khmer language from a Cambodian spy allegedly captured on Aug. 4, 1976. In his letter the agent, Sin Sara, 27, from the district of Samrong wrote that "sooner or later Kampuchea (Cambodia) will recover Saigon."

Another document showed the places numbering about 30, where the Vietnamese claim there have been Cambodian infiltrations. These allegedly occurred along virtually the whole length of the frontier.

# The Palestinians at the crossroads

Editor's note: The following analysis of the current political situation in the Middle East was written by Dr. Hisham Sharabi, Professor of History at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., and Editor of the Journal of Palestine Studies. Dr. Sharabi, a Palestinian, wrote this article for publication in Arab Jerusalem's newspaper Al Sha'b, where it was to appear last week if passed by the Israeli military censorship. The Jordan Times is pleased to publish Dr. Sharabi's article today.

By Dr. Hisham Sharabi

Four years ago, when the idea of a Palestinian state was first seriously considered in Palestinian circles, there were differences between those who rejected the idea and those who accepted it conditionally. There was, however, an overall consensus that this state should be granted to the Palestinians, in case they accepted it, and that Israel would welcome the Palestinians' acceptance and would undertake all necessary steps, such as withdrawal from the occupied territories, and recognition of the Palestinian state, in return, of course, for Palestinian recognition of Israel and termination of the state of war with it.

And so the "acceptors" went along with the policy of moderation, which was also followed by all the confrontation states after the 1973 October War, backed by vast sectors of Palestinian and Arab public opinion.

However, it soon became apparent that what the Israelis were saying through such of their leaders as Allon and Dayan -- and which the Arabs took to be mere bargaining points -- namely that withdrawal cannot be total, that there can be no return to the 1967 borders, and that Israel should keep security positions along the Jordan River, etc., was really meant in earnest. This fact became even more apparent after the May, 1977 Israeli elections when Menachem Begin declared that Israel rejects the proposed solution, refuses to withdraw from "Judea and Samaria" and firmly rejects consideration of a Palestinian state.

In spite of that, the confrontation states and the "acceptors" retained their moderate position. Everyone expected Israel to isolate itself as a result of its extreme attitude and its rejection of the international consensus, including the United States, even to the point when it finally would hang itself (as the Americans put it) if enough rope were extended. Everyone also expected a final showdown between the U.S. and Israel when the former would resort to exerting pressure on the latter. But none of that happened.

On the contrary, Israel's extremism and defiance increased, and it continued to establish new settlements in the occupied territories and to declare, in various forms of speech, that it not only intends to keep all Palestinian land (all of Palestine west of the Jordan River) and vast areas of Syria and Egypt, but also to do away with the identity of the Palestinians as a nation, to deprive them of their national rights and to subject them to a form of rule similar to that exercised by South Africa and Rhodesia on the blacks. It became clear to the Arabs that Israel was exerting pressure on the USA rather than the contrary, and that the American initiative was doomed to fail even if the Geneva conference were reconvened.

Sadat's move

The first to realise this was Anwar Sadat, and he decided to take a gamble. He paid the enemy a visit to occupied Jerusalem. His major mistake was in his estimations, rather than in his intention or aim (had he succeeded, everyone would have forgiven him).

He was mistaken in supposing that Israel really did want peace if only the psychological obstacle between it and its Arab neighbours were removed, and that its acceptance of peace would lead to its acceptance of withdrawal and of the solution proposed by the international community, including the rights of the Palestinians.

Israel did not change its position after the visit, as is well known, and conceded nothing. It only changed its style and took advantage of the end of its former isolation in order to wage a "peace" campaign against Egypt and the Arabs, the most recent step being Begin's visits to Washington and Islamabad.

The price paid by Anwar Sadat, a price for which nothing was given in return, is on three levels:

1. On the international level, he gave Israel the opportunity not only to end its isolation but also to seize the reins of political initiative and appear to the world as a genuine peace-seeker.
2. On the Arab level, he gave a fatal blow to Arab unity and the diplomatic front, between the Arabs on one side and Israel and the U.S. on the other, and gave Israel the chance to conclude bilateral agreements.
3. On the Palestinian level, he replaced the legal framework of the Palestinian question -- which is based on the expulsion of the Palestinians from their homes, on the occupation by the Israelis of Arab lands, and on Israeli violation of international resolutions -- by a framework of accommodation based on direct negotiations, forgetting the past and resigning to the prevailing situation which is to become the departure line of

any solution that may be eventually reached. It is true there were some positive results to the visit, most important of which are the spiritual and moral pressures exerted from within Israel and outside it, call on it to alter its attitude and offer some concessions.

But the question is: What is the nature of the concessions offered by Israel so far? In fact, all these "concessions" are no more than what was offered by the previous Labour government. Up to a time of writing these lines, the Israelis are still repeating their rejection of new formulas and solutions, and they prescribe to what they humbly call "the problem of the Palestinians", which in fact is none other than the right of the Palestinians to sovereignty, to self-determination, and to their return to their lands, while the Israelis continue to provide new prescriptions aimed at duping American public opinion -- no more and no less.

The present stage is precarious and dangerous. What we expect now in the light of the current situation? I am not in a position to lift morale but rather in one seeing facts as they are and feeling the way through. There are, in this connection, three points to be noted:

1. It has become clear that Israel will not retreat from its positions and will not accept a just peace that recognises the rights of the Palestinians as long as it still enjoys its military superiority, American support (absence of pressure) and a continuous rift in the Arab World.
2. At the same time, Israel is incapable of securing a peace it wants to impose. Its present extremist leadership does not have enough flexibility to satisfy the least requirement of Arab moderates; it is therefore imposing rejection on the moderates.
3. Israel is furthermore incapable of concluding a bilateral peace agreement, because Egypt refuses it. A separate peace with Israel will not save Egypt's economy as neither did opening towards the U.S. at an earlier date. Egypt is a separable part of the Arab Nation, and its fate is closely linked to it. The truth of this principle will be proved not only in the coming years, but rather within the coming weeks or months, and those that violate it will pay a high price in

Israel's position is not a static one. In its actual military superiority and ability to challenge the U.S. as a world public opinion it is bound by three changed relationships -- its relationship with the U.S., its relationship of the Arab countries with the U.S., and its relationship with the Soviet Union, and the relationships among Arab countries themselves. These are changing relationships, dependent upon political, psychological and material factors that can at no time completely stabilise.

Israel realises that it cannot count on the unchanged U.S. policy towards it, as it cannot depend on a constant rift in Arab solidarity. It is equally incapable of securing constant superiority as far as the balance of power in the area is concerned (militarily, technologically and political) to the detriment of the Arab World.

The fate of nations is not determined by momentary relationships and balances of forces, but rather by object forces and the dialectic of history, through determinate historical stages.

The size of Israel, in fact, is far smaller than it appears to be at this moment and what decides its concrete size is not the temporary superior external and technical relationships, but rather its human and material resources and environment. It happens to live in Israel is a small entity within the Arab World, and its Jewish inhabitants are a small handful compared to the great masses around it. In Palestine itself there are still over one-and-a-half million Palestinians, which amounts to 50 per cent of Israel's population.

The Palestinian position

And the Palestinians -- inside and outside Israel -- what is their position vis-a-vis the actual situation?

To say it frankly and bluntly, there is nothing they can do except wait patiently till this dangerous period passes. What Israel is trying to impose on non-Palestinians as a solution to the Palestinian issue is unacceptable even to those who are anxious to get rid of the Jews "at any cost". The fore, for the time being, there is no choice but to dig our heels in and wait.

But if Israel succeeds in destroying Palestinian solidarity -- through the weak and treacherous elements among them -- then it shall be easy to alienate them from their leadership and subject them to their enemy's will. During 50 years of struggle the Palestinians did not establish a single independent political institution to speak in their name, as their banner and protect their interests, except for the Palestine Liberation Organisation. It is all what the Palestinians politically possess and to deviate from the PLO's line at this stage is plain suicide, which cannot be justified by either political opposition or simple disagreement in opinion. Especially that several parties are trying to eliminate the organisation, and to put obstacles between it and the Palestinian masses in order to solve the Palestinian problem without the Palestinians.

The situation therefore does not only require paying a total service to the organisation, but rather reaffirming our total commitment to it and to its political line vis-a-vis Israel, the U.S. and the world.

## Ecevit's new government gives priority to urgent problems

ANKARA, Jan. 6 (R). — Social-democrat leader Bulent Ecevit was back in power as Prime Minister of Turkey today having declared his determination to give urgent priority to the problems facing the nation.

The 52-year-old head of the Republican People's Party

(RPP), asked to form his third government last Sunday, presented his coalition cabinet to President Fahri Koruturk yesterday without waiting for a parliamentary vote of confidence.

Mr. Ecevit, a poet and former journalist, told reporters he would give immediate pri-

ority to ending political violence in the country and solving Turkey's serious economic and foreign relations problems.

Over 200 people have died in political violence in the past year, including two people who were killed yesterday.

His prime foreign relations problem is the Cypriot deadlock which stems from Mr. Ecevit's own decision as Prime Minister in 1974 to send Turkish troops into the island, where they have remained ever since.

United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim is due here tomorrow for talks expected to concentrate on efforts to revive inter-communal talks between the Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots.

Mr. Ecevit, who was asked to form a government after ousting Premier Suleyman Demirel's rightwing coalition last a vote of confidence in parliament, expanded the cabinet from 29 to 35 ministers.

Observers said the increase in portfolios, with 13 going outside his own RPP, reflected Mr. Ecevit's pre-occupation with securing enough political support in parliament.

Although the RPP is the biggest party in parliament, it does not have an overall majority.

## Salisbury talks session postponed

SALISBURY, Jan. 6 (R). — Rhodesian settlement talks, due to be resumed today for a crucial 12th session, have been postponed until next week, a government statement said.

It said Premier Ian Smith met with two of the three black parties involved and they exchanged views on the settlement proposals.

"To give more time for further consideration it was decided to postpone the next

full meeting of the delegations until early next week," the statement said.

The negotiations have been bogged down on the key question of white representation in a black majority government.

Today's unexpected postponement was seen here as an indication of the deep difficulties the negotiators are encountering over bridging the gap between Mr. Smith's demands for safeguards for the minority's future and black demands for unbridled majority rule.

## Vance delivers crown to Hungary

BUDAPEST, Jan. 6 (AFP). — U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance arrived here to return the Crown of Saint Stephen to Hungary at a solemn ceremony in parliament this afternoon.

Mr. Vance flew here from Paris with his wife after taking leave of President Jimmy Carter there. The Vances were accompanying Mr. Carter on his current seven-nation tour.

The royal crown, a symbol of the Hungarian nation, had been in the possession of the United States since the end of World War II.

## Flight recorder of crashed Jumbo found

BOMBAY, Jan. 6 (R). — The Indian navy has recorded the flight recorder of an Air India Jumbo jet which crashed into the sea on New Year's Day killing all 213 people aboard, Samachar news agency said today.

The recorder, discovered after an intensive air and sea search, could provide the key to India's worst air disaster. Signals from it were picked up last night by a ship carrying sophisticated electronic equipment flown in by Air India, the agency said.

The Dubai-bound Boeing, carrying 179 Indian, two American and nine Arab passengers, as well as a crew of 23, plunged into the sea minutes after take-off from Bombay's Santa Cruz Airport.

The main wreckage of the plane has not yet been located and the navy is still searching for the voice recorder which tapes all conversation in the plane's cockpit, officials said.

The recorder, discovered after an intensive air and sea search, could provide the key to India's worst air disaster. Signals from it were picked up last night by a ship carrying sophisticated electronic equipment flown in by Air India, the agency said.

The Dubai-bound Boeing, carrying 179 Indian, two American and nine Arab passengers, as well as a crew of 23, plunged into the sea minutes after take-off from Bombay's Santa Cruz Airport.

The law, anxious not to interfere between a husband and his wives, looks discreetly the other way. The local sheriff prefers not to get involved in domestic situations. Handing out parking tickets and speeding fines are less troublesome than coping with an angry, gun-toting husband and his irate bevy of brides, all ready to defend the sanctity of their home.

For, out in parts of Utah, Arizona, Montana and New Mexico, polygamy and religion are one. Once the prerogative, in Utah, of the Latter Day Saints, as members of the Mormon Church are called, poly-

my was originally banned in 1890. The federal government, having dealt with the Indians, was ready to send in the U.S. Cavalry against the Mormons. The church patriarchs, reluctantly but prudently gave in. Polygamy was declared illegal. Mormonism and monogamy learned to live together as man and wife. But the die-hards still kept a few spare wives on the side.

The polygamy habit did not die off and it has recently known a rebirth, not only among rebellious "Fundamentalist" Mormons but among new religious groups.

Polygamists are estimated to number over 20,000 and their communities now dot the western countryside. The largest is located at Short Creek, formerly known as Colorado Creek on the Arizona-Utah border.

There is another major con-

centration of polygamists at Pinedale, in Montana, with three subsidiary communities in New Mexico.

Another polygamous group founded a New Times Church of the First-Born in nearby Mexico, where presumably the tolerant locals consider them as just another strange bunch of gringos.

The Kingston group, in Dalgiaunty, Utah, has combined polygamy, business and religion in a flourishing cooperative of some 30 little businesses which net its 400 members a neat \$40 million a year.

But having several wives is apparently not always conducive to universal peace. Inter-community infighting is not unusual and the patriarchs who rule over each group are all-powerful. Blood sometimes flows. Followers of Ervil the Utah baron, last May murdered rival patriarch Ruell Allred.

Seventy-nine-year-old Rhea Kunz, a retired teacher at Utah's Mormon capital of Salt Lake City, has become the spokeswoman of peaceful polygamists. Jailed in 1944 for her marital convictions, Mrs. Kunz was the first of her husband's four wives, mother of eight polygamist sons and has 70 grand-children.

Polygamy has been practiced in her own family for generations, says Mrs. Kunz. She led to the altar her husband's next three brides. But she later divorced him, and divorced her husband and two and a half sons from the morality of polygamy.

No drinking, no smoking, no drugs and no leering at other

women, except one's own wives, she says. The husband has his own bedroom and so does each wife. No sex before marriage, during a pregnancy and while the woman is nursing her child. The sole purpose of sex is to have children and the main purpose of life is work, says Mrs. Kunz.

Some polygamists are not at all happy with their lot. Harold Blackmore, 71, a dissident two-wife polygamist (18 children and 72 grand-children)

escaped from his community. "It took me five years," he says. "It was a dictatorship, just like in prohibition days." Some polygamists insist that their way is the only way to salvation and tell nostalgic tales of the "Danites", those 19th century Mormon terrorists who were ready to impose, by violence if necessary, their own brand of truth on their fellow Christians.

Polygamists still identify with Mormonism. Their children

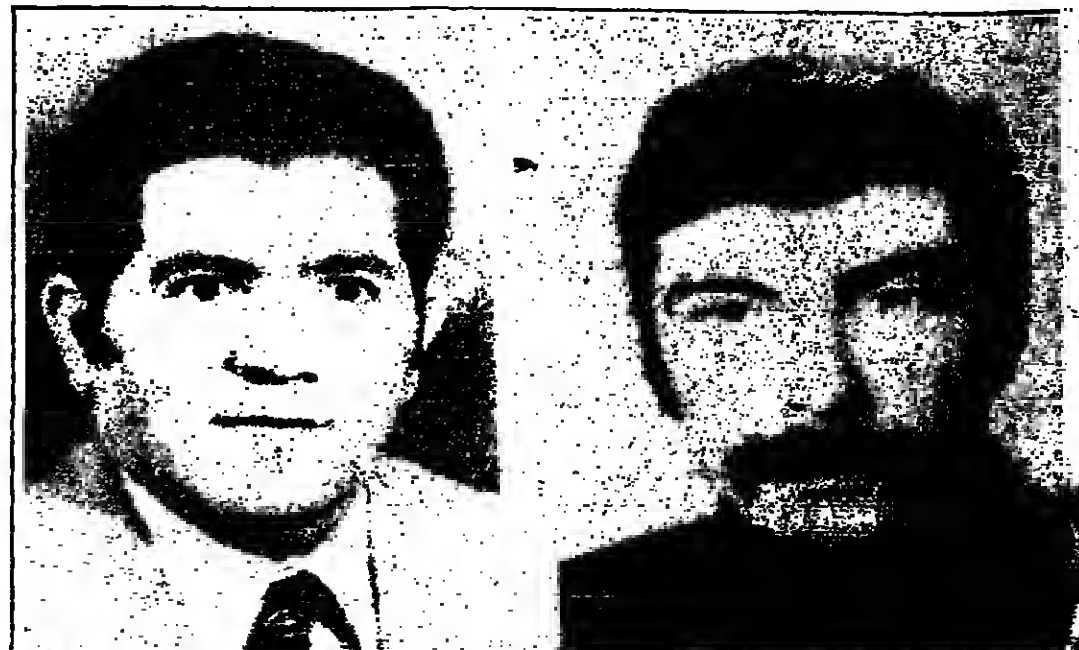
are educated in schools built by each community. Their records are piously kept in the genealogical library of Lake City, the largest of kind in the world.

So polygamy, forbidden, tolerated, endures and has zizzled lawmen who ponder the conflict between religious freedom and Polygamy. The public order can only philosophically shrug its shoulders and turn its mind to other things.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Jordan Times welcomes letters from its readers commenting on material published in the newspaper or on any matter of public interest. Letters should be typed, double-spaced, and preferably not longer than 300 words. They will be edited only for style and grammatical purposes, and letters longer than 300 words may be shortened at the editor's discretion.

Letters should be sent by mail to: the Editor, the Jordan Times, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.



British police issued this composite picture of the Syrian diplomat Jawdat Awad, (left) and his chauffeur Sayed Shibly, who died in a London car bomb blast on New Year's Eve not far from where Said Hammam, London's representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, was shot dead on Wednesday. (AP wirephoto)